Study of Power Subsidy for Poor

2590. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have set up a panel to study power subsidy for poor;

(b) if so, the details of the proposal and terms of reference of the panel;

(c) whether the panel has submitted its report to Government and if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, by when the panel is expected to submit its report and present status thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Improvement in Power Generation and its Distribution

†2591. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the condition of power generation and distribution is in a very bad shape in the country and whatever is being done by Government to improve the situation the bureaucracy is creating hurdles into that;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to control the bureaucracy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) and (b) Energy generation in the country during the last three years viz. 1997-98,

† Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

1998-99 and 1999-2000 registered a growth of 6.6%, and 7.1% respectively.

The supply and distribution of power within a State/UT is the function of the concerned State Government/State Electricity Board/ State Power Utilities. Government of India has, however, initiated reforms process in the power sector after consultation with the State/ UT Governments to improve the overall efficiency and to bring in commercial viability in the power supply industry so as to ensure quality power supply to all consumers at reasonable rate.

(c) Does not arise.

Delay in Bhadrawati Power Project

2592. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the French Company EDF withdrew from the Bhadrawati Power Project on the ground of seven years long delay in project implementation; and

(b) if so, the reasons for failing to finalise such deals with MNCs one after another?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) The Maharashtra State Electricity Board (MSEB) has informed that M/s. Electricite de France (EDF), a French Power major, who was the co-promoter in the 1082 MW Bhadrawati Power Project, has conveyed to the Central India Power Company (which is the generating company established to develop the project), its decision to pull out from the project. The following reasons have been indicated for pulling out of the power project:—

(i) Inordinate delay in getting clearances from various authorities.

(ii) A very high coal price sought by the coal supplier.

(iii) Lack of proper commitment to escrow arrangements.

(b) So far as the Central Government is concerned, the two major clearances *viz.* the Techno-Economic Clearance of the Central